

What is claimed is:

1. A water irrigation system, comprising:

a computer system;

5 a sensing unit comprising a moisture gauge, wherein the moisture gauge comprises a collector configured to receive moisture;

wherein the collector is configured such that a rate of evaporation of moisture from the collector is within about 10% of an average rate of evaporation of moisture from a zone to be irrigated;

10 wherein the sensing unit is configured to assess an amount of moisture in the collector and to provide output that is a function of the amount of moisture in the collector to the computer system; and

wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

15 2. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is configured to inhibit irrigation when the assessed amount of moisture in the collector exceeds a selected value.

20 3. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is configured to assess zonal evapotranspiration at least partially based on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

4. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is
25 configured to assess an irrigation need of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

5. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the collector is tapered.

6. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the collector comprises a curved taper.

7. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the collector
5 comprises a lip.

8. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein a portion of the collector is curved, and wherein an angle of the curve relative to a longitudinal axis of the collector ranges from about 45° at an upper portion of the collector to about 0° toward a middle
10 portion of the collector.

9. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein a color of the collector is a shade of green.

10. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein a color of the collector is a shade
15 of green chosen to approximate a color of vegetation in the zone to be irrigated.

11. The water irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is further configured to assess an irrigation need of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based
20 on the output from the sensing unit.

12. The water irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising one or more valves that are operated by the computer system.

13. The water irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising one or more valves that
25 are operated by the computer system, wherein at least one of the valves is coupled to one or more conduits, and wherein at least a portion of each conduit is configured to carry water.

14. The water irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising one or more valves that
30 are operated by the computer system, wherein at least one of the valves is coupled to one

or more conduits, and wherein at least a portion of each conduit is configured to carry water, and one or more irrigation devices, wherein at least one of the irrigation devices is coupled to at least one of the conduits.

5 15. The water irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising one or more valves that are operated by the computer system, wherein at least one of the valves is coupled to one or more conduits, wherein at least a portion of each conduit is configured to carry water, and a source of water that is coupled to at least one of the conduits.

10 16. A method of controlling irrigation, comprising:
 receiving moisture in a collector, wherein the collector is configured such that a rate of evaporation of moisture from the collector is within about 10% of an average rate of evaporation of moisture from a zone to be irrigated;
 assessing an amount of moisture in the collector; and
15 controlling irrigation of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein assessing the amount of moisture in the collector comprises assessing a depth of moisture in the collector.

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18. The method of claim 16, wherein assessing the amount of moisture in the collector comprises assessing a volume of moisture in the collector.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein controlling irrigation comprises inhibiting
25 irrigation when the assessed amount of moisture in the collector exceeds a selected value.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising assessing zonal evapotranspiration based at least partially on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

21. The method of claim 16, further comprising assessing an irrigation need of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed amount of moisture in the collector.

5 22. The method of claim 16, further comprising assessing climatological conditions, and controlling irrigation of the zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed climatological conditions.

10 23. The method of claim 16, further comprising assessing climatological conditions, assessing zonal evapotranspiration at least partially based on the climatological conditions, and assessing the irrigation need at least partially based on the assessed zonal evapotranspiration.